



Office of State Senator Christopher Belt

Senator Christopher Belt
57th Senate District

M118 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-5399

April 1, 2022

Monica LeGrand
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center and Quincy Medical Group Hospital

Dear Ms. LeGrand,

Access to health care is essential. Unfortunately, some communities have greater access to affordable care than others. One of the most important factors in ensuring that access is competition and yet in the Western Illinois communities around Quincy, that competition has been lacking for decades. Quincy Medical Group has been innovating health care for area residents and now seeks to build a new birth center and small hospital. I support both of these projects and encourage you to vote yes at the hearing later this month.

Everyone knows the high cost of care is an enormous problem for all, especially for those with less economic means. One of the biggest drivers of high cost is lack of competition. Recent studies have shown this problem, particularly with women's health issues. Local residents pay far more than their nearby peers. Even expensive areas like St. Louis have far lower fees. It's time to bring down costs for residents who can least afford it. The board has the ability to make this happen and your vote could be the difference.

Please consider the effect that increased options would have on residents and the community as you deliberate your vote and please consider voting yes on these vital projects.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Belt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Belt, 57th District Senator

cc: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members